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**BLUE VALLEY NORTH HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE® KANSAS BOYS SOCCER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (February 18, 2010) — In its 25th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPN RISE, today announced Jon Kempin of Blue Valley North High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Kansas Boys Soccer Player of the Year. Kempin is the third Gatorade Kansas Boys Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Blue Valley North High School.

The award, which recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the field, distinguishes Kempin as Kansas' best high school boys soccer player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Soccer Player of the Year award to be announced in May, Kempin joins an elite alumni association of past state award-winners in 12 sports, including Alexi Lalas (1987-88, Cranbrook HS, Mich.), Derek Jeter (1991-92, Kalamazoo HS, Mich.), Candace Parker (2001-02, Naperville Central HS, Ill.), Kevin Garnett (1992-93, Maudlin HS, S.C.), Tony Meola (1986-87, Kearney HS, N.J.) and Mark Sanchez (2004-05, Mission Viejo HS, Calif.).

The 6-foot-2 junior goalkeeper recorded 10 shutouts this past season, leading the Mustangs (11-6-1) to the Class 6A Northeast Regional 3 championship match. A member of the U.S. Soccer Federation's Under-18 Men's National Team, Kempin spent his sophomore year at the USSF's Development Academy program in Bradenton, Fla. As a freshman in 2007, Kempin did not allow a postseason goal as the Mustangs won the Class 6A state title.

Kempin has maintained a 3.43 GPA in the classroom. A member of the Big Brothers Big Sisters of America program, he has volunteered locally as a youth soccer instructor and at the YMCA.

"Jon Kempin gets up for games and he gets fired up when he makes saves," said Jon Parry, the Kansas City Wizards Juniors Director of Coaching. "He's got very, very good hands and is very good technically. He makes big, big saves all the time. He shows up for the big games for sure. Even in training, he doesn't give up goals. He's always into the game."

Kempin will begin his senior of high school this fall.

The Gatorade Player of the Year program annually recognizes one winner in the District of Columbia and each of the 50 states that sanction high school football, girls volleyball, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls soccer, baseball, softball, and boys and girls track & field, and awards one National Player of the Year in each sport. The selection process is administered by ESPN RISE and the Gatorade high school sports leadership team, which work with top sport-specific experts and a media advisory board of accomplished, veteran prep sports journalists to determine the state winners in each sport.

Kempin joins recent Gatorade Kansas Boys Soccer Players of the Year Ethan Bauer (2008-09, Olathe South) and Coleton Henning (2007-08 & 2006-07, Saint Thomas Aquinas) among the state's list of former award winners.

To keep up to date on the latest happenings, become a fan of Gatorade Player of the Year on Facebook and follow us on Twitter. For more on the Gatorade Player of the Year program, including nomination information, a complete list of past winners, and the announcement of the Gatorade National Player of the Year, visit playeroftheyear.gatorade.com.

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